

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 A combined battery comprising two end plates and a plurality of cells
stacked adjacent each other and bound by the two end plates,
wherein the cells are provided with a battery container made of resin,
and

the plurality of cells are bound by the two end plates with a binding
force equal to or lower than a threshold value determined based on a number
and a compressibility of the cells and stiffness of the battery container, in such
a manner that no more than a predetermined amount of irreversible
deformation will be caused in the battery container.

2. A combined battery according to claim 1, wherein the cell includes an
electrode plate group containing positive electrode plates and negative
electrode plates stacked adjacent each other with separators interposed
therebetween, and

the cells are stacked in a direction corresponding to a stacking
direction of the electrode plate group.